

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments to the application and the following remarks.

Pursuant to the Examiner's remarks, the IDS filed on September 7, 2004, has been re-submitted with the appropriate fee and certification. Applicants therefore respectfully request consideration of the IDS.

Regarding the Claims

Pursuant to the Examiner's restriction requirement, nonelected Claims 9-25 have been cancelled.

Claims 1-8 and 36-40 have been allowed. Claim 30 has been objected to, but no reason was stated in the Office Action. Based on the Examiner's comments during an informal telephone conference on May 31, 2005, the Examiner indicated that Claim 30 was objected to as depending from a rejected independent claim. Claim 30 has been rewritten in independent form. Claims 26-29, 31-35, and 41-44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Hirahara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,064,560). Applicant has cancelled claims 26-29, 31-35, and 41-44.

Currently pending in the application, therefore, are Claims 1-8, 30, and 36-40, of which Claims 1, 30, and 36-38 are independent. No new matter has been added. Therefore, Applicant submits that the cancellation of the rejected claims and the amendment to Claim 30 to overcome the Examiner's objection renders the claims in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests the same.

Some amendments and remarks contained in this document, or in other documents filed or to be filed with the US Patent Office in this case or related cases, may in the future be deemed, by a court of law or government agency of competent jurisdiction, to be narrowing amendments and/or related to patentability. Accordingly, the public is hereby advised that the applicant: (a) intends to relinquish only that claim coverage which is clearly, explicitly, precisely and unequivocally stated to be relinquished; (b) does not intend to relinquish any other claim

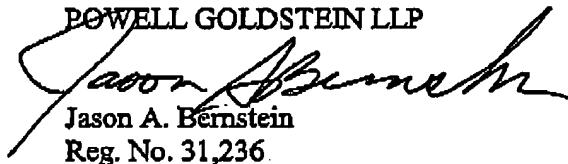
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coverage; (c) reserves the right to assert that any such amendments and/or remarks are not narrowing and/or are not related to patentability; and (d) intends to fully assert the full range of equivalents, under the Doctrine of Equivalents and otherwise, which are presently known or which may become known in the future, for each and every element of each and every claim, and for each and every claim.

Should the Examiner have questions or suggestions which will put this application in line for allowance, he or she is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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